

11-15-2011

The Good 5 Cent Cigar (11/15/2011)

University of Rhode Island

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cigar>

Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island, "The Good 5 Cent Cigar (11/15/2011)" (2011). *The Good 5 Cent Cigar (Student Newspaper)*. Book 105.
<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cigar/105><http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cigar/105>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Good 5 Cent Cigar (Student Newspaper) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

Volume 61

Issue 34

'Just what this country needs'

www.ramcigar.com

Tuesday

November 15, 2011

URI honors veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan during National Remembrance Day Roll Call

BY BROOKE CONSTANCE WHITE
News Reporter

The University of Rhode Island honored the nation's veterans a little differently this year. Rather than simply having the day off, the University Supports Student Veterans Committee along with Christine Dolan, an education specialist at URI, decided that URI should be a part of the Remembrance Day National Role Call.

During the 11-hour event, which took place in the Swan Hall auditorium, volunteer readers came in and read the names of all 6,243 U.S. service members who died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 15, 2001. Readers would announce names continuously, pausing for three seconds between each name, Dolan said. At 2 p.m. URI, along with the 182 schools across the country who were involved, had

a moment of silence.

In the lobby of Swan Hall, there were stations set up for people to write letters to those serving in the military, along with books for people to write down their thoughts. There were also counselors available if people needed to talk to someone.

In the days leading up to the event the committee had the posters with all 6,243 names hanging in the 24-hour room in the library.

Dolan helped organize the whole event, not only because she is a military wife and is also involved in the URI Supports Student Veterans Committee, but because she believed it was something that the campus needed to do to honor veterans.

"It's a national initiative and they wanted to get at least one college from every state involved. At the time, no schools in Rhode Island were involved,"

Dolan said. "A part of you feels like this is such a beautiful way to be honoring them and reading names to memorialize them, but then it's also so sad to read their names cause they died serving our country."

First Lieutenant Richard H. McMahon, who serves in the Rhode Island National Guard, was reading names and also standing honor guard at the event.

"I have a friend who was killed in Iraq and I will be reading his name today," McMahon said. "I think it's important to pay respects to those who go before us; they deserve our support because the job isn't easy."

Several faculty, including Human Development Professor Annemarie Vaccaro, volunteered to read names and help out during the day.

Continued on page 2

URI's South Korean sister school shares cultural dance

BY LANCE SAN SOUCI
News Editor

Samulnori, o-go-mu and nanjang: three types of South Korean drum dances that can open a world of discovery. University of Rhode Island students got a taste of these dances, among others, by the Far East University Drumming Group in an effort to increase cultural understanding at the URI campus.

Held in Swan Hall Auditorium last night, the performance was designed to strengthen ties between URI and its sister school, the South Korean-based Far East University. In the process, many students gained a stronger understanding of South Korean culture.

Dean of the URI Graduate School Nasser Zawia said drum-

ming is a reflection of South Korean culture, a thought he hopes students will carry home with them. He said the performance, featuring undergraduate students from Far East, offered students a glimpse of other lifestyles and possibly even opened eyes to studying abroad at the university.

"[Far East] started a linkage program to URI about one-and-a-half years ago to expand [globally]," Zawia said. "And they brought with them a drumming group to show a piece of their culture."

In fact, Endowed Chaired Professor of Far East University Yun Kim said he hopes the ties between URI and its sister university continue to strengthen, noting that URI has seen its first

Continued on page 2

Student veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom shares insights on experience as a Marine

BY LANCE SAN SOUCI
News Editor

When University of Rhode Island junior Travis Crewdson graduated high school, he had two options: go to college and pursue a degree or enlist in the military. He chose the latter, a decision that made him a corporal in the United States Marine Corps just four years later.

Today, Six years since his enlistment, he is at URI pursuing a degree in secondary education. Though he does not regret enlisting in the Marines and serving four years during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he had other ambitions in life.

"I left to pursue a degree for fear that if I didn't go to school soon, I wouldn't," he said, adding he is still a reserve member of the corps. "My ultimate goal...I want to get my degree and commission as an officer after I graduate [and teach math]. That way I can combine the two [career paths]."

Crewdson's situation is untraditional at best, but is not uncommon at URI. Co-Chair of the URI Supports Student

Veterans committee Christine Dolan said there are roughly 300 veteran students, all representing various branches of the military, studying at URI.

"What I find is that URI is making the campus as vet-friendly as possible," she said, a reasonable logic considering "many folks on campus have some sort of connection to a veteran."

She said whether it's an old high school classmate, friend or child, most people at URI are linked to the military via established relationships. Crewdson himself serves as a strong connection between URI and the military.

Noting his time spent in Diyala and Al-Anbar provinces of Iraq as his "greatest experience in life," Crewdson said though he has transitioned into the academic world fairly easily, his experience as a military member benefits him well at URI.

He attributes his discipline, "get-it-done" attitude, maturity and personal growth to his time spent in active duty. He said he wants to succeed at the highest

degree possible.

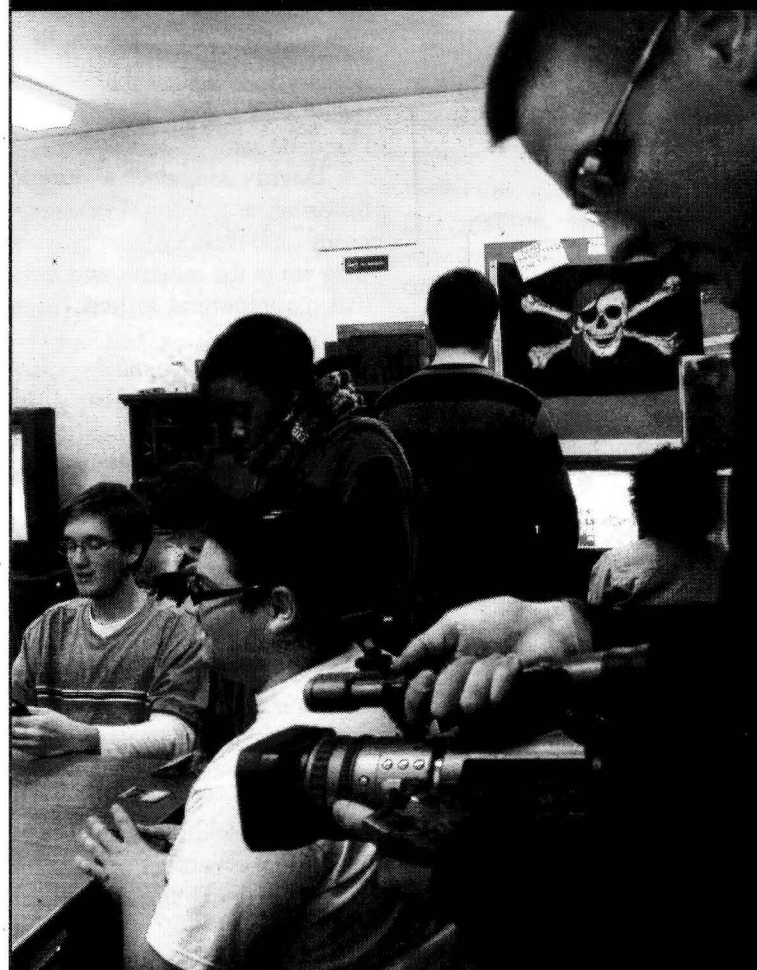
"In high school, if I had any excuse I would skip school," Crewdson said with a smirk. "Now, I do all my assignments before personal things and I'm at the front of class asking questions, making sure I understand the material."

His goes beyond the classroom as well. In spring 2010 Crewdson helped establish the Veteran Students Association (VSA) on campus, an entity he describes as "a place for vets to come together and have that camaraderie and connections they used to have but lost."

He also hopes to see the establishment of a Veterans Center at URI through federal grants to help facilitate the VSA's mission.

Crewdson, "proud" of his military background, also partook in the National Roll Call Day of Remembrance last Friday. Though the event is meant to honor "those who made the ultimate sacrifice" in the Global War on Terrorism, Crewdson said he felt "honored as well to have served among those people."

Rhody pic of the day



Photographer | Cigar
President of the URI Film Collaborative Daniel Larsh films the Gaming Club for the "Life in a Day at URI" project. See page 3 for details.

The Good 5-Cent Cigar

Today's forecast
62 °F

Few rain
showers!



Nickel Brief:

Check out tomorrow's Cigar for ways you can give back at URI this season!

Love Florence and the Machine?

See page 3.

CAMPUS

Dance

From page 1

Far East student study abroad here already. Reciprocally, he noted that Far East has not hosted a URI student yet.

"We want to have plenty of cultural experiences," Kim said. "For future events, we hope to see more than 100 students come."

As for last night's event, students in traditional attire were featured doing five drum dances that included percussive instruments like the gong, hourglass drum and barrel drums. Other performances included "harmonious" dances with the use of a Buddhist temple drum.

"Tonight was amazing," Executive Assistant to the Dean Megan Yakey said. "Plus, it brings a little bit of home to some of the international students."

URI's Rainbow Diversity House, which houses a number of international students each year, had a strong presence at the event including one student from Far East University in attendance.

Though the relationship between Far East and URI is in its infantile stage, Yakey said the event may bring about a desire for students to look there as a study abroad option.

"[College] isn't just about socialization, grades and getting a degree," she said. "We're trying to get exchange programs going on."

Veterans

From page 1

"I think it's very important to show our veteran students and active duty students that we support and honor them," Vaccaro said. "I think it sends a powerful message that today isn't just a day off but a day to remember."

Kayla Duquette, a second-year pharmacy student, volunteered to be a reader at several points throughout the day.

"I have had a lot of family

members who have been in the military and I believe that this is a really good way to honor them," Duquette said.

David Maggio, a junior majoring in geological oceanography and history, has friends who are in the military and feels that it's important to honor our veterans.

"Since we have the day off, I think this is the least we can do to honor our veterans," Maggio said. "We can definitely take some time out of our day to remember them."

ond," Westkott said.

Mangano (0:53.22) and Zabrudoff (0:54.42) took the second and third spots in the 100-yard freestyle.

Keshishian, Mangano, Revolinski and Andruzzi each grabbed second-place finishes in individual events.

"The one thing we talked about going in was that we did not want to back down from a team that's this good and we didn't," Westkott said. "We felt we accomplished a lot, we felt we swam pretty well and we could've just as easily gone the other way and we didn't."

The Rams are now 1-2 on the early part of the season. Next up for them is the annual Pink Out meet against Providence College tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the Tootell Aquatic Center. Admission is free for all.

Swim

From page 4

Henninger finished in a time of 1:41.50. The second-place team of Aubin, Nugent and freshmen Lauren Blais and Emily Thomesen clocked a final time of 1:43.56. The third-place team of senior Jennifer Lopez, juniors Teresa Lincoln and Stacey Stepniak and freshman Jessica Andruzzi finished with a time of 1:47.45.

Mangano, Revolinski, Keshishian and Zabrudoff grabbed a close second-place finish in the 400-yard medley relay, finishing just more than one second behind the first-place team for UNH.

"Everyone who swam in that event had a good personal time, even though they got sec-

Campus Police Reports

Arrests

- Two non-students, who had been previously banned from the university for allegedly exposing themselves to students, were charged for trespassing on Nov. 9. A Resident Assistant from the Browning residence hall alerted police that that the two men were in the area. Derek J. James, 20, of 201 James Trail, Other, R.I., was charged with willful trespass and is set to appear in Fourth District Court on Nov. 16.

Seth E. Johnson, 22, of 115 Macarthur Blvd., Wakefield, was charged with willful trespass. Johnson was held overnight for arraignment, as he was in violation of his bail for a charge from South Kingstown police and of probation for a separate charge.

Johnson pled no contest and received a one year suspended sentence, one year probation and a continued trespass notice from the university.

Larceny

- A student reported that while she was doing laundry in the Gorham residence hall on Wednesday at around 5 p.m., several articles of clothing, valued at \$100, were stolen from the washing machines. There are no suspects.

- A student reported that her wallet was stolen from the Butterfield dining hall on Wednesday at around 6:30 p.m. The wallet and its contents, valued at \$90, were left unattended and were missing when the student returned.

- Half of the Diversity House building sign was reported stolen on Friday at around 7 p.m. The sign has two panels and the missing side is valued at \$200. There are no suspects.

- Several juveniles who had run away from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families home on Liberty Lane were located at Hope Commons on Sunday at around 8:30 p.m. They were reported by a counselor who worked at the Liberty Lane home and were escorted back to the residence by police.

- Suspicious packages, containing books and sent from a former student, have been delivered to various pro-

fessors based out of Lippitt Hall. The incidents are under investigation.

Vandalism

- A student's 1998 Nissan was vandalized while it was parked in the Keaney lot on Tuesday at around 11:30 p.m. The mirror on her passenger side was damaged and left hanging from the car, causing \$40 in damage. There are no suspects.

- A fire door on the outside of Bressler Hall was broken after students left it propped open on Wednesday at around 1:30 p.m. There are no suspects.



RICE MÜLLER LANDVIK BLAUVELT MOORE DCP LAGO NIEMELA JACKSON

THE ART OF
FLIGHT

URI SNOWBOARD CLUB PRESENTS:
THE ART OF FLIGHT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2011
DOORS AT 6:00 PM, SHOW AT 7:00 PM
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND - SWAN AUDITORIUM
UPPER COLLEGE ROAD / FREE ADMISSION

BRAIN FARM
DIGITAL CINEMA

MEDIA
HOUSE

QUIKSILVER

WWW.ARTOFFLIGHTMOVIE.COM

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

Ordering delivery and want something healthy? Try one of Albie's 17+ salads with one of our 12 dressings. Call us at: (401) 792-3860 and visit us at albies-place.com

Albie's Place phat sandwiches, 17+ salads, wings + fingers, clubs, burgers, wraps, soups, breakfast sandwiches, Best Fries + much more. Albies-place.com

Buy/Sell

King size bed, like new, firm and spotless, \$85- can help deliver. Dorm fridge, works great, \$45. (401) 783-2404

Living

Large selection of well-maintained homes for rent. No application fees! Call now for 2012-2013. (401) 789-0666 or liladelman.com

NARRAGANSETT nicely furnished and equipped 2 bedroom house. \$725/month, available now through June. (401) 783-6222

Narragansett Pier, 4 bedrooms, 2 bath, fully furnished, parking, central air, 2 zone oil heat. Washer/dryer, bus line, \$1600/month. (401) 946-4944, 401-663-0800 [cell], (401) 451-8281[cell]

6 bedrooms available spring semester 2012 & academic year 2012-2013 in Eastwood & Briggs Farm. www.home-away.com/vacation-rental/p374265

www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p303174 www.vrbo.com/167707 Eastward Look for rent. 5 large bedrooms, walk-in closets. "No block" parking, corner of Charlestown Exeter. King/Queen beds. Call (401) 465-1372

Narragansett Pier, 6 Bedroom home, washer, dryer, large deck, parking, minutes to URI, walk to beach Available Sept. 2012 to May 2013. (413) 525-1228 or (401) 578-3571

The best houses go early! Eastward look- 3 bed, 2 bath- \$500/student www.homeaway.com (prop# 122450) sand hill cove- 5 bed, 3 baths- \$550/student www.homeaway.com (prop# 122451) (508) 223-2092

Florence And The Machine releases strong new album

BY ALEX MCDEVITT

Contributing Entertainment Writer

Following 2009's hit *Lungs* that propelled the small Welsh-pop band all the way to the top, England's own Florence and the Machine's new release *Ceremonials* gently combines a more aggressive sound that harnesses singer Florence Welch's demons and exploits them.

Where I can say this tops *Lungs* in a huge way, the new sound that Florence has contributing to this new release could have some fans of the older worried.

Starting things off, the first two tracks, "If Only For A Night" and "Shake It Out," combine Welch's classic vocals with a loud drum line that incorporates what older fans loved about the 2007 indie group in the first place.

I especially loved the echoes they incorporated in a very piano heavy sound. Also, it gave the suggestion that Welch was telling herself just to let go and be herself to her fans and beyond. So far, so good.

Next, is the best track on the entire album. "What The Water Gave Me," based around Welch's childhood, a blues rhythm in the background, could be the best track the group had made to date. I think Florence was conveying two messages in this song: total human connection to nature



Florence and the Machine's newest album offers new hits and a new sound.

and that acceptance who she really is. If you had to buy the album just for one thing, it would be this song.

In the middle stretch of the CD, *Ceremonials* got better and better. Where I felt "Never Let Me Go" seemed to go right over my head, the next two tracks, "Breaking Down" and "Lover To Lover," had an iconic harp and guitar that captured my imagination once again.

"Breaking Down" sounded a lot like Florence's hit "You Got The Love," which made it

my second favorite track of the album. Most importantly, "Breaking Down" has the most personal sound to it, as a song that would have a sad title would sound so uptight and mystical sounding.

The rest of the album is very impressive, especially the track "Seven Devils", which sounded like a horror film in the background, making it even more haunting when it had to deal with inner demons within all of us.

"All This And Heaven Too" was the best of the lower

tracks, describing how an eternal spirit speaks to all of us. I got the impression that love exists in all of us, and Welch was saying this in a non-preachy way. Her vocals couldn't be any more fluent and mesmerizing in all of these new songs.

The only thing that holds *Ceremonials* from being my favorite album of the year was its lack of being a full album. Alone, all the tracks sounded great, but it just didn't flow from middle to end.

Where I felt the first half of the album had harmony, the rest, minus a few exceptions, sounded less in quality.

While this did bother me a bit, the biggest thing I had to note was how modern Florence and the Machine is beginning to sound. This could have always been the case, but in this album, it sounded a lot more commercial than *Lungs* was. This didn't bother me because it sounded much more professional and better sounding than before. Still, it's missing soul, an overall sense of meaning.

Nonetheless, *Ceremonials* is a great album that has some exceptional pieces including "What the Water Gave Me," "Shake It Out" and "Breaking Down," and Florence's voice at its greatest.

URI Film Collaborative's YouTube project lets campus share a 'Life in a Day'

BY KAYLA BELTRANDI
Contributing News Reporter

Yesterday, the University of Rhode Island Film Collaborative (URIFC) asked students and faculty to film a day in their life on campus, sharing their feelings on URI and about life in general.

This project is based on YouTube's feature length documentary, "Life in a Day" where people all over the world were asked to film their day, answer questions about their life and upload their footage. The end result was a inspirational film focusing on the little things of life. URI's Film Collaborative held a

screening of this documentary and decided to do a similar project themselves: "Life in a Day at URI."

URIFC is asking students and faculty to answer the questions: Why did you choose to come to URI? What is in your pockets? What do you love? What do you fear?

The group is going to edit all participants footage together to come out with one documentary exposing the lives of students and letting them express their true feelings.

"The purpose of this project is to give a voice to students and faculty and to strengthen our sense of com-

munity. This is your chance to say how you really feel and say what this college means to you," said Daniel Larsh, president of URIFC, in an email interview.

"The result of this will be unpredictable, but we're hoping to accomplish something big and as meaningful as YouTube's 'Life in a Day'," Larsh said.

Anyone is welcomed to participate. To enter a film clip, students can film some highlights of their days, answer the questions, upload it to YouTube, then send the link to URIFilmCollaborative@gmail.com.

ON REASON:

"There has never been a philosophy, a theory or a doctrine that attacked (or 'limited') reason, which did not also preach submission to the power of some authority... Power-seekers have always known that if men are to be made submissive, the obstacle is not their feelings, their wishes or their 'instincts,' but their minds; if men are to be ruled, then the enemy is reason."

AYN RAND author of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*
For more information contact the Ayn Rand Institute at:
www.AynRand.org #eas3

Be a Peace Corps Volunteer

Live, learn, and work with a community overseas.



Be a Volunteer!

Contact URI recruiter Allyson Snell (Guatemala, 2006-2009) asnell@peacecorps.gov for more details

peacecorps.gov

800.424.8580

The pen is mightier than the sword
Write for us!
Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Rhody SPORTS



Volleyball qualifies for A-10 Championships

BY JOE HOLLENBECK
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women's volleyball team split its weekend series against the George Washington University Colonials and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers, qualifying them for the Atlantic-10 Conference Championships for the first time in ten years.

With only two games left in the season, the Rams needed at least one victory in order to compete in the Atlantic-10 championships. Their first matchup pitted them against struggling George Washington and the Rams took advantage, winning the match 3-1.

After losing the first set 15-25, Rhody took control of the match. The Rams stopped making errors after the first set and ran away with the match by winning the next three sets (26-24, 25-20, 25-

18).

Senior Kayla Wilson led the offense for the Rams, just as she has done all season. She finished the match with 16 kills, bringing her season total to more than 400. Fellow senior Candice Kolkka finished the match with her fourth double-double of the season. She had 38 assists and 10 digs for the Rams. Sophomore Britta Baarstad had 14 kills in the match.

"It was comforting to win that game," head coach Bob Schneck said. "We knew that we needed that victory if we were going to make it to the A-10's. Even though GW has been struggling, they usually play us strong so I'm proud of our team for making a statement and winning those three straight sets."

The following day the Rams faced the 49ers for the sixth and final spot in the Atlantic-10 Championships. The Rams played strong but fell to the 49ers in five sets

(25-22, 19-25, 25-27, 25-16, 15-17).

Kolkka had another double-double for the Rams. She finished the match with 39 assists and 18 digs. Baarstad had a team high 13 kills and six digs of her own.

Despite losing the match, the Rams still had the advantage over the 49ers because they won the set tiebreaker 6-4. The Rams celebrated on the court and will now have to prepare for No. 3-seeded Saint Louis University who beat the Rams in a match earlier this season.

"It is a great feeling right now," Schneck said. "We felt like we could have done this from the beginning of the season. I knew we had a special team this year and after a few years of coming so close and falling short, it is nice to actually get into the championships this year."

Women's swimming falls to UNH at home

BY SHAWN SAIYA
Sports Editor

The University of Rhode Island women's swimming and diving team took on the University of New Hampshire this past weekend and lost by the score of 160-120.

"[UNH has] been good for a long time, they are good this year and may be one of the best schools we swim against besides some of the Atlantic-10 schools all year," head coach Mick Westkott said. "We use that to gauge whether our program is making improvement."

Despite dominating some events, the Rams were not able to translate that to a completely dominant match, which cost them in the end results.

Junior Susan Nugent continued her strong showing for the early part of the season. Despite being ill, she was able to claim the top spots in the 1,000-yard freestyle (10:40.59) and the 100-

yard butterfly (0:59.82).

The Rams also grabbed the second and third place spots in the 100-yard butterfly. Freshmen Rachel Revolinski and Colette Aubin grabbed those two spots with respective times of 1:00.26 and 1:02.69.

The Rams were able to take the top three spots in three other events.

Freshmen Julie Coleman and Cara Brown and senior Sasha White earned the top three spots respectively in the 3-meter dive.

Freshmen Chaya Zabludoff (2:14.42) and Sarah Keshishian (2:14.98) and sophomore Caitlin Carter (2:20.55) grabbed first second and third in the 200-yard individual medley.

The Rams also took the top three spots in the 200-yard freestyle relay. The first-place team of senior Katie Mangano, Revolinski and sophomores Taylor Gannon and Rachel

Continued on page 2

Basketball team loses in overtime at George Mason

BY MIKE ABELSON
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island men's basketball team showed that they could run and score, but couldn't score enough to pull out a win on the road at George Mason University.

A three-pointer from senior Orion Outerbridge rimmed out while the buzzer sounded in overtime as Rhody lost to the Patriots, 92-90, in the season opener for both teams.

"I'd give the shot to Orion ten time out of ten times," senior Jamal Wilson said after the game. "I know he can knock that shot down."

Freshman Jon Holton had a double-double with 14 rebounds and a dozen points. None were bigger than the three-pointer he hit with 30 seconds left to tie the game and send it to overtime.

"Our first two games we didn't see any adversity, and we saw that tonight," Wilson said. "Tonight is a very well lesson learned. We struggled, we were down. The team made a run and now we prepare for that. The next game the freshman thing is out the window. We're all a team now."

The game was a wild back and forth affair with the lead changing hands 22 times and the score equalizing another 17.

Wilson was the star, dropping a career-high 38 points

in the loss. It was the most points scored by a Ram since Dawan Robinson piled up 37 in a game against Quinnipiac in 2007.

A three-point play by Wilson gave Rhode Island an 88-87 lead with three minutes left in overtime, but two turnovers in the last 90 seconds provided all the breathing room George Mason would need to escape with the win.

"It's rebounding and coming up with some more effort," Wilson said. "I think we could do better than that. We'll go back and look at film and see those couple of rebounds we should have got. It's things like that. Small things."

Outerbridge and freshman Mike Powell each finished with 11 points and junior Nikola Malesevic scored 12, including two of the team's six three-pointers.

The road doesn't get any easier for the Rams. They will tangle with the University of Texas tonight at the Erwin Center. The game is set to tipoff at 4 p.m. and is a part of ESPN's 24-hour college hoops marathon.

"I'm very confident going into Texas," Wilson said. "I can't wait. I know these guys are hungry. They feel as though they owe everybody one and so do I. I can't wait."

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Part of the Elite

BY JOE ROBERTO
Sports Staff Reporter

I know most of you will stop reading this column once I mention the NFL quarterback discussed in this article, but for the rest of you who truly respect the game and all their players, I hope you understand where I'm coming from.

Two Sundays ago featured two of the top quarterbacks in the game today, with Eli Manning and Tom Brady facing off in a rematch of the 2007 Super Bowl. And just like that Super Bowl, Eli Manning and the New York Giants staged a last minute comeback to beat the New England Patriots.

With a 6-3 start to the 2011 season, Eli Manning is playing at the top of his game and leading the injury plagued Giants to another great first half of the season. This is where most of you will stop reading, I will say now that

Manning should be in the same conversation as Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers, a healthy Peyton Manning and Brady as one of the top quarterbacks in the game.

I know many students and faculty members at the University of Rhode Island are Patriot fans and will automatically disagree with the fact that Manning is in the same conversation as Brady, but the numbers don't lie. I understand that haters are going to hate, Eli isn't in any Ugg commercials, doesn't date a super-hot supermodel and doesn't have the same pretty face as Brady, but he is playing just as well.

On the season, Manning ranks fifth in passing yards with 2,688, fifth in touchdowns with 17 and has two fewer interceptions than pretty-boy Brady with eight. Besides the miserable 25 interceptions just a year ago, Eli put up a solid 2010 season.

He finished fifth overall with 4,002 passing yards and threw 31 touchdowns, ranking him fourth in the NFL, just two fewer scoring passes than his older brother.

Even though I agree that the saying, "You can't spell Elite with Eli" is just straight up corny and lame, it's very true. As a die hard Giants fan, I laughed in Eli's face when he said in the beginning of the season that he thought he was just as good as Brady.

Yes, I dislike the Patriots to a great extent, but I'm still an intelligent sports fan who knows Brady is one of the most clutch quarterbacks to ever take the field. So, though I didn't completely agree with Manning's statement, I loved his confidence.

On the field, I'm glad he is starting to get away from throwing off his back foot to a sea of secondary defenders.

But there's still half a season remaining and the Giants are known for second half collapses which I cringe at the thought of last year's disappointing ending. But the past is behind us. If Eli continues to put up the numbers he has, and the Giants continue to play with swagger and heart, they will be fighting for another title at the end of the season.

Have something to say?
Write to the Cigar today at
cigar@etal.uri.edu